



• Contents •

2010 East Toronto Archives Breakfast Recap1
Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous1
Carrying the Message2
Have You Heard.....3
Archives Alley3
Intergroup Report4
This Month's Cartoon 4

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**10th Annual
 11th Step Picnic/
 Family Day**

Saturday August 7th, 12–5pm on Olympic Island in Toronto
 The cost is FREE!
 For more information call Barb at 905-264-6080
 Event will be cancelled if it rains

– 2010 East Toronto Archives Breakfast Recap –

If you want to know where you are going, you need to know where you have been. That is the motivation behind the East Toronto Archives Breakfast hosted by Districts 18 and 22. The fifth occasion of this event was held at Embers Restaurant on May 16th, 2010. The purpose of this event is to keep our past fresh in our minds.

The event started with an hour of fellowship on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning. We were called to our places by our host, Bryan D., at 10:00 a.m. The program started off by remembering those who passed away this year, starting with Joe C. and Benny L., two long time members of the District 22 Archives Committee. That was followed by memorial acknowledgments from the audience of others who had also left us this past year. This gave everyone time to reflect on the contributions these members gave to our fellowship, and a reminder to be grateful. We all owe so much to those who have led the way for us.

Grace was started and finally finished by Cathie D., who was interrupted by a spontaneous rendition of the Serenity prayer. We are creatures of habit. After a wonderful meal with great friends, the main

event began. The meeting portion of the day was chaired by Terry G., District Committee Member for District 22 Scarborough.

As in the past, the two speakers were just amazing. Audrey of the Motor City Group in Oshawa shared her reflections of her past 53 years of sobriety and her enthusiasm for AA which is still very strong at the age of 90. Throughout her story you could hear the laughter in the room. She told us how she was the only woman in the group from 1957 until the next one joined in 1962. Let's hope we can all be so alive at 90! Next, Joe K. of the Golden Mile Group told his story, a mixture of recovery and service, as he was a former District Committee Member. It was especially moving when he became emotional about family moments. His message was clear: one of the greatest gifts we have is our family.

When the sobriety countdown was held, the excitement built as year by year rolled down to months, then weeks, and then days. This year there were three recipients (all in their first week of sobriety) of Big Books from the oldest member Audrey (our speaker, with 53 years of sobriety).

Continued on page 2

Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous

At eight months in the program of A.A. and a member of the Anniversary Group, I ventured into my first meeting north of Toronto. My husband and I have a cottage near Gravenhurst, so this is where I went at noon on a Friday in June 2001.

Anxiety gripped me as I walked down the church stairs to the meeting room, where I was met by the usual suspects who introduced themselves and shook my hand.

One of these people was a woman named Pat G., who was to become my sponsor.

Pat also had a cottage near Gravenhurst and was a sober member of the Unionville Group. We became permanent fixtures at the Friday noon meeting that summer. In the fall, we supported each other at our respective one year medallions in the city and our husbands finally met.

Soon we were socializing, and that is when serendipity took over. Our husbands' families had curled together for many years and knew many of the same people. Our guys then realized that they had gone to the same university and graduated the same year!

As our friendship grew, it was further revealed that Pat and her husband Bob had lived in the same apartment building as my parents in the early '70s.

By the next summer, my husband and I downsized to a town home in Markham and I joined the Unionville Group. Pat and I soon decided to sponsor each other and so far, our A.A. journey and life journey just keep getting better.

I came to A.A. to get sober and ended up finding a Forever Friend. Coincidence? I think not!

Yours in love and service,

Gail P., Unionville Group

Carrying the Message

How the GTA Treatment Facilities Committee Does It

The idea of working with a still-suffering alcoholic is older than A.A. itself. What better place to find them than in a hospital, detox or some other alcoholism treatment place? The purpose of the GTA Treatment Facilities Committee and volunteers is to do just that, by visiting hospitals, detox centers, shelters and treatment facilities to provide information on what A.A. is and does. Specifically, the committee will meet with facility administrators to discuss how needs may be met, visit the alcoholic, provide literature or, most often, by putting on or supporting the meetings in the facilities.

There are 9 districts in the GTA, 1 of them Spanish; the district Treatment Facilities chairpersons make up the GTA Committee. Work in the different districts varies – from support to existing meetings in the facilities to putting on the actual meetings.

The District may support meetings held in the facility, providing literature or other support or actually put on the meeting on a “group rotation” basis where a group will take on the responsibility of putting on a meeting in the facility, providing a chair person and a speaker, for a month or 2. For example, District 12 supports 13 meetings, 6 on the group rotation basis. District 6 supports two facilities as requested and puts on a meeting in a shelter, and District 10 supports 2 meetings at CAMH. The remaining Districts support and put on meetings in hospitals, detox units and transition houses. Meetings at hospitals often support treatment program clients and psych ward patients.

Elaine H. has been chair of the the GTA Treatment Facilities Committee for about 2 ½ years. She took on the role when she was chair of District 6 but has since rotated out of the District chair position. She became interested in the committee as an extension of having spent 9 years volunteering with the relapse prevention program provided by Homewood following patient treatment. Elaine understood the importance of bridging the gap between treatment and A.A. In fact, Bridging the Gap is a program undertaken by this Committee.

Bridging the Gap sets up temporary contact for individuals coming out of treatment facilities. The temporary contact is not intended to be a sponsor; the role is one of facilitator, helping to get individuals to meetings, to “bridge the gap” from treatment to A.A. The GTA Committee will be contacted to provide a temporary contact for someone coming from another province and the District where they are located will find that contact. Each District recruits its volunteers as temporary contacts.

The GTA Committee also ensures that they are present to provide information about its role to A.A. members who attend the Ontario Regional Conference (ORC) and Info A.A. Day. A display is set up and literature is available, with a committee member on hand to answer questions. The GTA Committee's major responsibility is to facilitate the sharing of information and resources between districts and to provide support to the District Treatment Committee chairpersons as needed. For example, if 1 district puts on more meetings than another because of the prevalence of treatment facilities within its geographic area, an adjacent district might offer materials such as Big Books to help defray costs as well as provide support for meetings. Meetings on common borders may also be shared.

The GTA Committee has been very successful in carrying the message in the past 1½ years, with active participation from all the districts and with the establishment of 4 new meetings within the last 6 months! They are always looking for hospitals, treatment facilities and detox centers to service.

Those interested in service with the Treatment Committee can apply through the Toronto Intergroup website or they can simply attend one of the monthly meetings (3rd Thursday each month at 234). There is no sobriety requirement or required time commitment. Qualifications are only those that the treatment facilities themselves stipulate and the amount of time an individual wants to give. New members are always welcome!

Based on an interview of Elaine H., Treatment Facilities Chair
Marrey P., R&R Group

2010 East Toronto Archives Breakfast Recap

Continued on page 1

But the greatest gift was the standing ovation and support given to those newcomers as we all “remembered when” we were in their place. Hope lives.

A wide array of AA literature with a historical theme was given as door prizes and raffle prizes. We were lucky enough to get two copies of “A Rabbit Walks into a Bar” as prizes. This is a new Grapevine anthology of AA humour, and it is so popular that it is just “hopping” off the shelves. This year a grand prize of two tickets for next year's breakfast was introduced. The winner was Chris of the East York Group. She was so surprised and could not believe her luck that she literally jumped for joy.

Special thanks go to Janet and the staff at Embers for a fine meal, to District 18 and 22 Grapevine Chairs for their display, the display of archival material relating to District 18 and District 22, and to the 2010 East Toronto Archives Committee that started back in September 2009 to make this great day possible. All in all, the result was a room full of members having fun and a great time while being reminded of where we came from. This is quickly becoming a popular event. And it just keeps getting better!

See you next year!

Yours in Love and Service

Jim A., 2010 East Toronto Archives Breakfast Committee

haveyouheard

Recent Medallions:

Phil G.	5	Mississauga Group	June 6
Bob	1	Parkway Group	June 7
Karen W.	5	Bathurst Group	June 7
Martha F.	1	Prince Edward Group	June 7
Stephen H.	20	Living Sober Group	June 8
Gerry R.	1	Unionville Group	June 9
Ken C.	10	Markland Wood Group	June 10
Angelique H.	1	Saturday Morning Disc.	June 12
Kevin A.	1	Primary Purpose Group	June 16
Deb R.	1	Unionville Group	June 16
Marion S.	15	New Anchor Group	June 17
Ciara C.	5	Silverbirch Group	June 18
Mike D.	5	High Park Group	June 20
Betty B.	50	Lawrence Plaza Group	June 20
Mike M.	1	Parkway Group	June 21
Rob C.	5	Prince Edward Group	June 21
Leslie H.	20	King City Group	June 21
Carol R.	1	Anniversary Group	June 23
Janice T.	1	Unionville Group	June 23
Kim P.	1	New Anchor Group	June 24
Brad H.	5	Rexdale United Group	June 24
Peter D.	5	Sunnyside Group	June 24
Gustav N.	25	Yorkville Group	June 26
Matt C.	35	High Park Group	June 27
Graydon C.	20	Living Sober Group	June 29
Paul F.	30	Unionville Group	June 30

Upcoming Medallions:

Dahon P.	1	R&R Group	July 2
Sylvia M.	1	Back to Basics Group	July 2
Lesley B.	5	Crossroads	July 4

Marilyn H.	20	Crossroads	July 4
Glenn G.	5	East York Group	July 6
Reno	10	Golden Mile Group	July 7
Heinz F.	5	Maple Group	July 8
Barry D.	15	Midtown Group	July 11
Maggie A.	1	Bayview Group	July 11
Tyler A.	1	Credit Valley Group	July 11
Nazli E.	5	King City Group	July 12
Vik M.	1	East York Group	July 13
Barry W.	5	Markland Wood Group	July 15
Marvyn W.	5	Mississauga Group	July 18
John R.	1	Parkway Group	July 19
Steve K.	20	Sheppard Group	July 20
Tim H.	15	Yorkville Group	July 31

Meeting Changes:

Brampton Sunday AM Discussion (C) Sunday 10:30am (SUBURBAN NORTHWEST): As of May 23 meeting is temporarily moved to Flower City Community Campus, Building D, at 8850 McLaughlin Road South.

Keys to Serenity (C) Thursday 8pm (CENTRAL): Meeting at Harbourfront Community Centre will be cancelled June 24th and July 1st. Meeting will resume July 8th.

Maple (C) Tuesday 8pm (SUBURBAN NORTH) Tuesday meeting at 8pm will change to Monday at 8pm effective September 6, 2010

Vision of Hope (C) Thursday 1pm (SUBURBAN WEST): Meeting will be cancelled July 1st only due to holiday.

Streetsville St. Andrews (O) Thursday 8:30pm (SUBURBAN WEST): Meadowvale South meeting group has changed their name to Streetsville St. Andrews.

Discontinued Meetings:

Noon (C) Thursday 12pm (CENTRAL): Meeting has been discontinued.

Announcements:

2010 International Convention of AA will be July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas. For information go to www.aa.org.

Mount Royal - York Group will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 13 at Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East. All are welcome!

Tenth Annual 11th Step Picnic/Family Day will be held on Saturday August 7. We will start at 12pm on Olympic Island in Toronto.

Lakeshore Districts' 38th Annual Conference will be held August 13 - 15. Event will be held at 1551 Stevenson Road North in Oshawa. For additional information call Lakeshore Intergroup at 905-728-1020

Woodstock's 29th Annual Marathon of Unity Convention will be held August 20-22 at the C.A.W. Hall, 126 Beale St. in Woodstock, Ontario. Fellowship, food & fun. For more information: visit www.oxfordaa.com.

52nd International Conference of Young People in AA will be held August 26-29 at the Marriott Marquis-Times Square in New York City. For more information go to www.icypaahost.org

Mississauga Fall Roundup: Sunlight of the Spirit will be held on Saturday October 2 from 8am to 3:30pm. Event will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 3625 Cawthra Road in Mississauga. Includes AA, Al-Anon and Alateen speakers and a hot and cold buffet lunch. Tickets are \$20 (Alateen \$5).

archivesalley

Part 2 of letter to the Alcoholic Foundation written by Bill Mcl., Secretary for the Toronto AA Central Group

Dear Bobbie: *Continued from June Better Times*

This Sunday, March 24th we are holding our 3rd Anniversary Meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 3 p.m. until midnight. A buffet supper from 5-6 and the meeting to start at 7 p.m. with Clarence Snyder of Cleveland, Ohio as guest speaker. I am enclosing a clipping of our advertisement. We had this in both evening papers today and in the morning paper tomorrow the 21st. This get together should do a lot to unify the various groups and comes at a very opportune time as we are trying to obtain some hospitalized plan for alcoholics. There has been a great deal of pressure put on the Provincial Government by the Temperance Groups (note clippings also our Dr. Little's name in connection with their cause). This publicity and show of strength should help our appeal for a better deal for the alcoholic.

Could your office forward us any State legislation concerning methods of hospitalizing alcoholics, such as Alabama and Connecticut? Any information or definite form of procedure in use would help us greatly. Medicine is still not too interested in us here

in Canada. However; that too will come. We have a great many doctors who are sympathetic toward our work and several who are going all out for us.

I am enclosing various clippings pertaining to A.A. since the first of the year. We haven't selected a reporter for the Grapevine but will in the near future. I might say our Women's Group under Mrs. P. is really doing a fine job. They run their own show but have the willing help of both men's groups if they need it. This is all the news for the present. To date we have received no letter regarding our donation to the National Fund. Do we get that later? I wondered if it had been overlooked in the turmoil caused by renovating the club rooms.

With very best regards to yourself and Bill and all New York AA from Toronto.

Sincerely,

Bill Mcl (Secretary)

May '10: Intergroup Report

Chair's Opening Remarks: John C. (Half Century), Executive Committee Chair – After sharing on how the Traditions work in his personal life, John commented that he was happy to be sober, and added “thank you for understanding me”.

Finance Report: Don M. (Hill), Finance Chairperson – Finance Report for the month of April 2010 Summary:

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
April	\$132,038	\$124,197	\$7,841
Comp. to Budget	119,467	101,537	17,930
Year to Date	\$169,913	\$163,210	\$6,703
Comp. to Budget	113,594	91,893	21,751

Contributions for the month were on budget; however, we are behind budget in donations for the year so far due to the shortfall at the beginning of the year.

Questions: Joy (Welcome): How do you come up with the Prudent Reserve amount? How do you decide? Don: There are specific recommendations for Prudent Reserve amounts for Central Offices from GSO. It is recommended to have 1 year's Operating Expense. Also, GTAI has included literature expenses into our PR amount. Don noted that our PR has not been increased in some time.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Access Ability: Cathy Z., incoming Chairperson – We had a booth at Mayfest on May 14 with ASL volunteers interpreting at the table (all from George Brown College). There were a lot of visitors to the booth, and we handed our several meeting books. We will be at People in Motion on June 4 & 5.

Archives: Glenn G. (East York), Executive Committee member – Roy R. (Trial & Error), has resigned as chair after serving for 5 years. Resumes for this position are welcome before the next Executive Committee meeting (June 22). October 3, there will be a showing of the many AA-related materials lovingly preserved and collected by the late Bob D. Annual Archives Breakfast will be on November 7.

Correctional Facilities: Sarah M. (Don Mills), EC member – Sarah reported that all is going well; however, she requested on behalf of this committee that more District CF Chairs please attend the table.

CPC: No report was given at this time.

Information AA Day: Phil M. (Bloorale), 2010 Event Chairperson – The event is set for this Saturday (May 29). Doors open at 6:30 a.m. for set-up. The cost is \$5 for the day (tickets available at the door). 2011 Chair is Vince R. from District 10. Next meeting will be held in July.

ORC 2010: Jim B. (Saturday Morning Discussion), 2010 Event Chairperson – Bills have been paid and signing authority will be switched to the 2011 committee. The committee is recommending a secure online registration option in the future. This committee is giving Intergroup a donation of \$13,325.

Questions: Bill (Anniversary): Could there be a daily rate available for future ORCs? Jim: This will be for future chairs to consider. Our committee felt that the \$30 registration fee was an excellent rate for three days. It might get too complicated to have one, two, and/or three-day separate rates. Debbie (Beaches): Is there accountability regarding the ORC with Intergroup and AA as a whole? Jim: We on this committee have signed on as trusted servants. Don M. (Hill), Finance Chair: The ORC is independent, but has a responsibility to report to Intergroup on a regular basis, and has done so monthly.

Public Information: No report was given at this time.

Treatment Facilities: Trevor O. (Mississauga), EC member – we are active with TF Chairs in all districts and in supporting meetings in hospitals, detox, treatment centres and shelters and providing literature as required with support from districts. New meetings established at Peel Region Shelter, CAMH in the withdrawal management unit, re-established at Branson Hospital and Scarborough Hospital - Grace following the relocation of the Scarborough Hospital psychiatric division are doing well. All Districts are signing up new Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact volunteers and we are focusing on carrying the message into GTA facilities. Will be present at Info AA Day.

Twelfth Step: Jim O. (Markland Wood), Chair – May Greeter Captain issue had been rectified and shifts are running smoothly. The committee will have a table at Info AA Day. Jim is stepping down as Chair. Resumes for this position are welcome; please have resumes in before the next Executive Committee meeting (Tues. June 22). Volunteers for the phones are needed! To volunteer for phone duty, members must have one year of continuous sobriety and must have attended a phone training session.

Website/Newsletter: Aaron K. (Yorkville), Chairperson – We welcome your submissions and ideas. Please have your articles in by the 10th of the month for the upcoming issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

John mentioned the Motion made last month with regards to installing a toll-free number to our helpline. It looks like we could obtain a number for under \$100/month. John asked that the Motion be re-read to the Floor:

MOTION that the GTA Intergroup implement a no long distance fee telephone number (at a cost of no more than \$125/month) for those outside the 416 calling area, to enable them a no-cost access to services offered by the GTA Intergroup. Motion moved by Tom W. (Aurora) and seconded by Wendy (Willowdale). Lengthy discussion ensued.

MOTION to call the question (end discussion) moved by David Z. (Saturday Morning Discussion) and seconded by Dee T. (Streetsville). **MOTION CARRIED.**

VOTE CALLED: 49 for Motion; 1 opposed; 2 abstentions noted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

To see the complete minutes go to www.aatoronto.org.

